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ODESSA MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Midland, Texas, this morning, Richard Dewain Westfall was sentenced to 63 months in federal prison for possessing child pornography and transmitting it over the Internet.

In July 2004, America Online referred information to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that a person using the screename "mistreather" had e-mailed child pornography utilizing its facilities. NCMEC, in turn, referred the information to the Cybercrimes Unit of the Office of the Texas Attorney General for investigation. Authorities subsequently determined that Westfall was "mistreather." A search warrant on Westfall's Odessa residence was executed by the Cybercrimes Unit on September 7, 2004, resulting in the seizure of a CD and a computer hard-drive collectively containing approximately 90 images of hard-core child pornography, including graphic and sadistic images of adult males engaging in intercourse with prepubescent females. Westfall also transmitted images of this nature via AOL. On May 25, 2005, Westfall pled guilty to the charges.

"Child pornographers are the lowest of the low," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "Their despicable acts have a devastating effect on the most innocent and vulnerable in our society, our children."

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Robert Junell ordered that Westfall be placed under supervised release for a period of seven years after completing his prison term.

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton commended the investigative efforts of the Cybercrimes Unit of the Texas Attorney General's Office. Special Assistant United States Attorney Grant Sparks prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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